



Excellence in Planning for the Natural Environment Category Criteria and Entry Information

Entry Form Deadline: Friday 8 December 2017

Submission Deadline: Friday 15 December 2017

The RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence are the most established and respected awards in the planning industry, and continue to champion very best examples of planning in our society. The awards aim to:

- Demonstrate the positive and critical role planning and planners play in place-making
- Promote the art and science of planning for the benefit of the public
- Demonstrate the positive impact planning has on our quality of life
- Celebrate professional expertise
- Disseminate new models of working and examples of best practice

Being shortlisted or winning these prestigious awards is a clear demonstration of the quality of your work. All shortlisted and winning entrants will be provided with an RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence logo, which can be used on your own website, email, social media and promotional materials. The awards are judged by a team of respected planning professionals.

Criteria

This category recognises projects that improve the natural environment through conservation, enhancement or restoration. For example, green and blue infrastructure plans, natural resource management or improving biodiversity.

Work completed during the two years prior to 30 November 2017 is eligible for entry. Particular care should be taken to avoid entering schemes prematurely before they can be satisfactorily assessed. Entries must be completed or substantially completed. Entries should state at what stage of the planning process the project has reached, for example: date application submitted or plan consulted on, or date permission granted/plan adopted.

You may enter a project into more than one award category, provided you send separate submissions for each.

Projects or work which has previously received an RTPI Award for Planning Excellence may not be re-entered in the same category.

You will need to critically evaluate the work carried out and must demonstrate the strengths of your project, the role planning has played and highlight any difficulties and constraints you have overcome. Submissions should provide evidence to demonstrate the criteria below. It is also crucial you demonstrate throughout the submission the planning value the project has.

Planning content and skills

- High quality of professional planning work involved in devising solutions to key issues, barriers and problems
- The clear impact that planners have made to the success of the project
- Strong and effective leadership from a planner or planners

Sustainable development

- Positive short, medium and long term public benefits arising from the project
- A balance of economic, social and environmental objectives
- Please also list any of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals the project supports

Community engagement

- Positive and constructive engagement with local residents and businesses in the design and delivery of the project
- Consideration of, discussion on, and communication with, local residents and businesses about their views

Inclusive planning

- The needs of all of the potential users of a development or place have been taken into account to ensure everyone is able to participate equally, confidently and independently in everyday activities
- Approaches to promote equality and diversity issues

Outcomes

- Benefits of the project for the local community
- Positive impacts the project has had for the economy
- Positive impacts the project has had on the environment

Good practice

- Creative and innovative techniques and processes that have been taken

- The transferability of the approaches taken
- The lessons learned from delivering the project

Social benefit

- How this project has helped provide a better quality of life for disadvantaged communities.
- Could include anti-poverty initiatives, approaches that ensure community benefits arise from the project, the provision of facilities, job creation scheme.

Colour photography, plans or other images that help illustrate your work may be included in the submission.

Please ensure your submission also includes both a 25 word and a 100 word overview of your Project. Should you be shortlisted, these overviews will be used across the Awards' marketing and publicity.

For help with your submission, please view our 'How to Win' guide [here](#).

How to enter

1. Complete the entry form on our website by **Friday 8 December 2017**.
2. Create your submission addressing all of the questions set out in the judging criteria (submission file size must be no more than 10MB).
3. Send your postal submission by **Friday 15 December 2017**. Please ensure your postal submission contains the following:
 - 2x hard copies of your submission.
 - Memory/USB stick which contains;
 - 1x electronic copy of your submission (max 10MB).
 - Up to 3 images of the project (max 1MB each) – should you be shortlisted, these images will be used in the awards publicity campaign and during the ceremony. In the file name, please state who we need to credit the images to.

Please send to:
 Awards for Planning Excellence 2018
 The Royal Town Planning Institute
 41 Botolph Lane
 London
 EC3R 8DL

Upon receiving this we will acknowledge receipt by close of play **Monday 18 December**.

Entries for the online submission is now closed

Terms and Conditions

- Full submission received by the RTPI by Friday 15 December 2017.
- Without both the electronic entry form and the full submission the entry will not be counted.
- The RTPI are not responsible for any lost or late entries. We suggest you send postal entries recorded delivery. We will confirm receipt of all entries by close of play on the 18 December.
- Should your submission be shortlisted, the entrant is required to attend the Awards Ceremony on the evening of the Thursday 24 May 2018 at Milton Court in Central London.
- The RTPI reserves the right to use any images and logos you submit, for promotional purposes.
- The RTPI reserves the right to share entrant details with our member magazine *The Planner*.
- An entry will presume that there are no restrictions or fees payable for the reproduction of the photographs or any other submission materials
- The RTPI retains permission to publish all submitted material and particulars of successful entries, including the judges' reports. This may include online and print publication, and successful entrants may be offered other promotional opportunities. Winning and shortlisted entries may feature as case studies in future RTPI work demonstrating best practice and the value of planning.
- Submitted material will be retained by the RTPI and will not be returned. The RTPI cannot accept any responsibility for submissions that are late, lost, mislaid or damaged by delivery companies.
- The Royal Town Planning Institute is not liable for any costs you incur submitting this entry.
- The decisions of the judging panel are final and no correspondence will be entered into before or after the event.

Judging process

The judges will review all entries received from candidates and determine a shortlist. Profiles of the shortlisted entrants will be taken from their entry submission will be published on the RTPI's website on 6 February 2018.

Presentation

The winners of the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence 2018 will be announced at a presentation to be held at Milton Court in Central London on the evening of Thursday 24 May 2017. All entrants will be invited to book places at the ceremony when tickets go on sale in February 2018.

Contact us

If you have any questions about entering the RTPI Awards for Planning Excellence, please contact awards@rtpi.org.uk or 020 7929 9457.